

SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND REDISTRICTING

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April 13, 2001 HILLSBORO
9:00 am Tape 59

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Steve Harper, Chair
Sen. Peter Courtney, Vice-Chair
Sen. Kate Brown

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sen. Jason Atkinson
Sen. Lee Beyer
Sen. Randy Miller
Sen. John Minnis

**OTHER LEGISLATORS
PRESENT:** Sen. Charles Starr
Rep. Richard Devlin
Rep. Elaine Hopson
Rep. Betsy Johnson
Rep. Bruce Starr

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Allen, Committee Administrator
Marjorie Taylor, Committee Administrator

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: REDISTRICTING

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 59, A		
004	Chair Harper	Explains the redistricting process.
024		Committee introductions.
045	Peg Snider	Interpreter. Explains that she is available to translate testimony.
059	Rick Ross	Resident of outside Sherwood since 1984, House District 27. Describes his district and states that it is very confusing. States that the district is contiguous but does not lend itself to a community feeling. Explains that Aloha has four districts that converge to divide the community. Explains that House District 5 is composed of Cornelius, Forest Grove, and Hillsboro. Adds that the outlying rural area forms House District 3. Believes that this exacerbates the tensions between rural and urban areas. Suggests that the rural communities would be better served with linkages to the urban areas. Stresses that current boundaries do not relate well to community identities.
103	Pat Ribellia	For Hillsboro Mayor Hughes. Relates information on Congressional District 1 and submits (EXHIBIT A). Believes that new boundaries should keep or expand the current physical, economic, governmental, environmental, social, and cultural ties with the greater Portland metro area.
133	Britt Corhman	From House District 3, Aloha. States that there are four House

		Districts in Aloha. Asks that Aloha be considered a separate entity. Indicates that Aloha has distinct issues to address including housing and transportation. States that the area needs one, not four, representatives to address the community issues. States that Aloha has its own high school and its own post office and zip code. Expresses concern with the traffic problem, growth related to housing, and road expansion. Requests that there be one representative to look at the problems unique to Aloha.
171	Dawn Phillips	Testifies on behalf of Representative Jim Hill. Explains that Washington County is growing and is now the second largest county in the state. Suggests dividing Hillsboro near the eastern section. Adds that they should move District 5 to the east. Believes that the east has its own community of interest relating to rapid growth. Suggests also looking at natural boundaries, political subdivisions, and man made boundaries. States that 185 th is a logical boundary to the east. Explains that there will have to be some wiggle room in the urban growth boundary, St. Mary's property and Hazel Dell area is going to grow a lot. Suggests that District 5 go from the Sunset Highway down to the TV Highway using 185 th as the eastern boundary.
242	Rep. Devlin	Explains that the population is now 445,000 in Washington County.
259	Don Otterman	City Manager of North Plains. Submits (EXHIBIT B) . Explains that he has a petition that states that they would like a local representative. Adds that they have concerns regarding schools, public safety, transportation, and welfare. Explains that there were 204 signatures gathered in a week's time. States that there is concern that North Plains will be lumped in with the Scapoose/St. Helen's area. Believes that North Plains identifies with Washington County more than Columbia County.
298	Mike Balanese	Explains that the travel from here to Salem is terribly difficult with the heavy traffic. Requests that hearings in general should be held in people's hometowns.
351	Sen. Courtney	Asks about his opinion regarding congressional lines in this area.
353	Balanese	Responds that he does not want Portland included in his congressional district. Believes that Congressional District 1 should be west of Multnomah County.
374	Elizabeth Nahl	Resident of Hillsboro. Believes that we need to remember the Latino population in Hillsboro, Cornelius, and Forest Grove. Adds that it is an important community of interest.
392	Hector Injosa	Thanks the committee for having a translator and recognizing the Hispanic population. Explains that when he settled here in 1962 there was only a handful of Hispanics. Adds that this population has grown immensely. Asks that the committee consider race, color, and creed when deciding the district lines.
432	Brown	Explains to the audience that there is a bill being considered that would create a task force to look at translating ballots and voting pamphlets into Spanish.
452	Jose Jaime in Spanish interpreted by Peg Snider	Asks that they keep in mind that the Hispanic community is ever increasing. Believes that this is a way that Mexicans can recapture what was once theirs. Adds that this can be done

517 Harper through the voting process. Believes that many Hispanics are overlooked.
TAPE, 59 B Refers to and explains (**EXHIBIT C**).
002 Chair Harper Adjourns the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Jennifer Goodman, Craig Allen,
Committee Assistant Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A – Redistricting, written testimony, Pat Ribellia, 1 p.**
- B – Redistricting, petition, Don Otterman, 18 pp.**
- C – Redistricting, redistricting handout, Staff, 4 pp.**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND REDISTRICTING

April 13, 2001 BEAVERTON
2:30 PM Tape 60

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Steve Harper, Chair
Sen. Peter Courtney, Vice-Chair

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sen. Jason Atkinson
Sen. Lee Beyer
Sen. Kate Brown
Sen. Randy Miller
Sen. John Minnis

**OTHER LEGISLATORS
PRESENT:** Rep. Steve March
Rep. Bill Witt

STAFF PRESENT: Craig Allen, Committee Administrator
Marjorie Taylor, Committee Administrator

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: REDISTRICTING

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 60, A		
005	Chair Harper	Explains the redistricting process.
020		Committee introductions.
030	Chris Coughlin	Washington County resident. Explains that she lives on the eastern line of Washington County. Suggests not using government lines such as school district boundaries and county lines in determining redistricting lines. Explains that her area is now annexed with Beaverton. Adds that however, she uses services in Multnomah County. Explains that she lives in an older part of the state as opposed to the newer Beaverton areas.
062	Chair Harper	Explains that this area is growing quickly and that the districts will be shrinking.
068	Ramona Rex	Resident of Aloha/Beaverton area. Explains that this area is now split among House Districts 3, 27, 6, and 9. Adds that she is now residing in an area that has grown immensely, House District 27. Explains that her representatives are not from her area and are not aware of the concerns of her area. Suggests defining Aloha as an area of common interest. Adds that District 3 is a different geographical area.
124	Bob Tenner	Submits (EXHIBIT A) . Explains that Beaverton has formed a group called NAC that represents the area. Explains that the line dividing House Districts 6 and 8 splits his neighborhood. Adds that it is inconvenient to have 2 representatives. Suggests that they recognize the community of interest regarding NAC.
150	Mike Leopold	Member of the Beaverton School Board. Explains that there are

		different concerns in the schools for example, the older established and newer growing schools. Adds that it would be helpful to be able to address one representative who is attuned to their specific problems.
182	Rob Drake	Mayor of Beaverton. Submits and testifies from (EXHIBIT B) . Asks that they please consider preserving the First Congressional District boundary. States that the City of Portland is a transportation hub and that they share Highway 26, Cornell Road, Barnes Road, and the Westside Max Line. States that they share economic interests with Portland. Explains that soon the Airport Max will link Washington County to the Portland Airport. Adds that it would not benefit them to split representation between Beaverton and Portland. Asks that only communities of interest split Beaverton in the Senate district. Asks that they keep in mind that the western and northern areas are newer. Adds that the eastern part is more established which includes central downtown Beaverton, the Vose area, Garden Home, and Multnomah Village. Asks that these remain together.
259	Rep. Witt	States that Congressional District 1 needs to lose 100,000 people. Adds that Congressional District 3 has too few people. Suggests moving the boundary west into Multnomah County. Asks where the line for Congressional District 1 should be drawn.
272	Drake	Responds that the Legislature has good maps to move around the population, he does not have this benefit. Suggests that it is a difficult process and that they should keep community of interests together. Explains that Congressional District 1 is diverse and they want to remain being a part of Portland Metro.
321	Carol Robinson	Supports the idea that Beaverton remains in Congressional District 1 and Senate District 7. Believes that Beaverton is an urban community. Refers to the Portland school district and that of Beaverton. Explains that there are 63 languages spoken in the Beaverton School District. Adds that she is concerned that the district line will be pushed into rural areas with which they have not much in common. Explains that she uses Portland for her community services and would like a representative who understands urban issues.
396	Barbara Fredericks	Resident of Beaverton since 1992. Explains that Washington County is linked to the well being of Portland. Believes that there should be two representatives in the Congressional House. Believes that it is important that OHSU retain and develop the status of a research university. Explains that the schools in Beaverton and Portland face similar issues. Adds that she uses the services in the Portland area. Explains that the transportation link is important between Beaverton and Portland. Requests that the legislature leave intact the lines that include portions of Portland within Congressional District 1.
491	Rep. Witt	Explains that Portland has 11% of the population. Asks if she is concerned that giving Portland two representatives will shortchange other areas of the state.
501	Fredericks	Responds that she is not concerned. Explains that the rest of Oregon is spread out over large areas of land. Believes that therefore they do not have the urban problems that Beaverton

and Portland do.

TAPE 60, B

002	Rep. Witt	Asks if she thinks it would be good to have Washington County a District in itself and then build another District around it.
006	Fredericks	Responds in the negative. States that the link between Beaverton and Portland is too strong. Believes that 2 representatives are needed for Washington County.
024	Judith Davis	Resident of Lake Oswego. Believes that Congressional District 1 should remain as it is. Suggests that if they need to pick up some population they take it from District 4. Believes it is necessary to have 2 representatives in Congress.
040	Dorothy Mckay	Resident of the Garden Home area. States that there are three districts in Clackamas County. Asks that they take Clackamas County out of District 1.
025	Mike Bohan	Resident of Aloha. Explains that Aloha is a region of common interest and should be its own district. Explains that they see themselves as a suburb of Portland and ask that Congressional District 1 retain communities of common interest.
070	Barbara Fredericks	Asks about the status of the bill regarding punch card ballots.
074	Chair Harper	Responds that they are working hard on it and will hear it before the end of session.
081	Sen. Courtney	Explains that this was an issue in the last meeting.
089	Chair Harper	Refers to and discusses (EXHIBIT C) .
097	Frank Hake	Resident of Beaverton. Asks what the effect will be if Congressional District 1 is expanded. Adds that this could change the political situation.
113	Rep. Witt	Responds that Congressional District 1 starts at the river and includes the western portion of Multnomah County, Washington County, Yamhill County, Columbia County, Clatsop County, and Lake Oswego. Explains that the district is 60,000 over in population. Explains that Multnomah, Clatsop, and Columbia are democratic. Adds that the rest are more republican. States that division will have political repercussions. Explains that District 3 has to add 34,000.
145	Chair Harper	Explains the redistricting process. Adds that his goal is to pass a bill through the House, Senate, and for the Governor to sign. States that this is a compromise between the political parties.
167	Hake	Asks about the Governor's veto power regarding redistricting.
168	Chair Harper	Responds that he does have veto power as in any other bill.
171	Sen. Courtney	Responds that the Governor does not play a role in the Congressional seats. Adds that it goes from the legislature to the Federal Courts.
178	Chair Harper	States that if it does not become a bill it goes to the Secretary of State's Office and then to the Federal Court.
187	Rep. March	States that someone will probably challenge any plan they have and it will go to court.
198	Hake	Hopes that statesmanship rules.
199	Sen. Courtney	States that the Legislature is not allowed to develop a plan that favors any particular party.
213	Chair Harper	Reviews the Salem redistricting schedule. Responds that this redistricting should be completed by the end of May or beginning of June.
219	Rep. March	States that according to the Constitution the legislature has until

224

Chair Harper

June 30th.

Adjourns the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Jennifer Goodman,
Committee Assistant

Craig Allen,
Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A – Redistricting, written testimony, Bob Tenner, 3 pp.

B – Redistricting, written testimony, Rob Drake, 2 pp.

C – Redistricting, redistricting handout, Staff, 4 pp.